

Remarks

Claims 143-155, 167-193 and 196-232 are pending.

Response to Restriction

In response to the Examiner's requirement for an election of species, mailed December 22, 2006, Applicant *again* elects Subgroup "b": Figs. 2A-2F.

Generic Claims: Claims 143, 173, 182, 186, 197, 227, 229, 230

Listing of Claims: Claims 143-155, 167-193 and 196-232

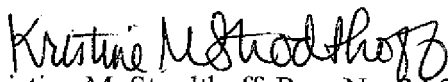
Applicant notes that the election of species is for the purpose of search, and that Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species upon allowance of a generic claim. It is understood that if the claims of the elected Species 1 are found allowable over the prior art, the Examiner will expand the search to include other species.

It is noted that the Examiner had previously required this *same election* in the Office Action mailed September 30, 2002. In Applicant's response filed October 28, 2002, Applicant elected the *same species* – (Subgroup "b", Figs. 2A-2F).

Extension of Term. The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.136 apply. Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that Applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time. If any extension and/or fee are required, please charge Account No. 23-2053.

It is submitted that the present claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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